

Light and Airy



Scottish Country Dancers of Winnipeg

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From the Chair....

Well our summer is just about over and we are preparing for (and looking forward to) the upcoming year of Scottish Country Dancing. Although many of you have had a break from dancing there has been some dancing activity over the last few months.

June 22 - Demonstration Team danced at the Highland Gathering in Selkirk.

August 1 - The Millennium Gardens in North Kildonan - a casual display of dancing on the grass with some participation dancing with the audience and entertainment from Reg, Sheila and Scott. See the write up by Jan MacPhail.

August 4 to 10 - The Scottish Pavilion where the Demonstration team performed August 6 and participation dancing took place in the Cultural Room every night. Also, on August 10 we participated in the Transatlantic Ceilidh in real time via Skype with people in Helmsdale Scotland. See Heather's article for more details and kudos to Heather for putting this together with very little notice! David set up our display table to advertise our dancing and I commend him doing a good job. Thank you to the members who volunteered at our booth. The photos showed dancing in many situations and events, the video gave people some idea about what dancing is and pamphlets were handed out. There seemed to be a lot of interest in our dancing this year so now we just have to see who shows up Sept 5.

Then, if they do sign up, we have to ensure that we give them what was promised in the poster - FUN!

David's publicity material includes some very professional posters to advertise our dancing courtesy of headquarters. He will be putting these posters in the mail and we are asking our members assistance to put them up throughout the city.

I feel that the best publicity we have is our own members spreading the word of SCD 'the best kept secret in the city'. Over the next few weeks I would encourage our membership to mention this activity of dancing, that they enjoy so much, to the people that they encounter in their lives and to invite them to the Open House.

I hope that you enjoy these last few weeks of summer doing the things that you love to do and look forward to seeing everyone at the Open House and classes.

Joyce Cormack

2013/14 Dance Season

Thursday, September 5	Welcome Dance/Open House – No charge 8:00 pm
Week of September 9	Fall Term Regular classes begin
Thursday, September 12	Fall Term Basic classes begin
Thursday November 21	Last Basic class of Fall Term
Tuesday, November 26	St. Andrew's Social (hosted by the Technique Class)
Week of December 9	Last Regular classes of Fall Term
Thursday, January 9, 2014	Welcome Dance/Open House – No charge 7:30 pm
Week of January 13	Winter Term Regular classes begin
Thursday January 16	Winter Term Basic classes begin
Saturday January 18	Burns Dinner and Dance
Monday, March 3	Class Social (hosted by the Fort Garry Class)
Thursday March 20	Last Basic class of Winter Term
Thursday, April 3	Spring Social (hosted by the COM and Teachers)
Week of April 21	Last Regular classes of Winter Term
Friday-Sunday May 2-3	Workshop Weekend

Please note: All dates are subject to change – please check the calendar each month. Socials are at St. Paul's Church Hall, North Drive and Point Road, at 8:00 pm, with admission of \$10.00, unless otherwise noted.

From the Editor

Well this has been a very interesting summer. I usually take vacation at the end of August by which time it is cooler and the days are shorter. Well this

year I decided to take one week in July and one week in early August to experience a hot vacation. Well that did not work out at all. Both of the weeks I was off were cold and rainy! Now that I'm back at work the days are hot and sunny... and it's the week that I usually take! Oh well. I have really enjoyed

the cooler weather. It is hard to believe though that the summer is almost over. The only consolation is that it means that the dancing season is about to begin. Are you ready? The registration forms are on the website so make sure you get yours filled out and bring them to class as soon as you can. Looking forward to seeing everyone and catching up on what's been happening since the wonderful weekend we shared in May. See you at the Open House/Welcome Dance.

Sheila Careless

Branch News

Thank you!

Christine Wallace wishes to convey to the members of the Branch her sincere thanks for the gift of a Dance Book and CDs, suitable for children. This is something that she had wanted for some time and she thanks us all for our thoughtfulness.

Thank you to the Branch and members for your kind expressions of sympathy on my father's passing. Special thank you to Kirby McRae our Honourary Piper for coming out on short notice and his wonderful playing."

Gerri

Our condolences!

Our condolences go out to Elizabeth Frenette on the passing of her father, Ian Frenette of Moncton, NB. He passed away on August 16th. The service was August 20th in Bathurst, NB. Our thoughts are with you and your family.

Prairie Gold

Just a reminder about our 2013 50th Anniversary project "Prairie Gold". This book of Scottish Country dances and accompanying CD is available by contacting us through our website. The book and CD together can be purchased for \$30 plus shipping. The book alone is \$15 and the CD alone is \$20. Music is played by our own *Scotch Measure* who have been playing music for us for over 32 years. Since April 2013 we have sold books and CDs across Canada as well as to Japan, United Kingdom and United States. Please visit our website for more information about the CD and book as well as more information about *Scotch Measure* and the Winnipeg branch.

Reg Curle

Big Bike 2013

June 18, 2013

The Winnipeg Scottish Country Dancers raised \$1,819 for the Manitoba Heart and Stroke Foundation in this year's Big Bike event. Our top fundraiser was Barbara LeBow, with \$250 in pledges, followed closely by Team Captain Heather Ferguson (\$210) and Sheila Careless (\$200).

Our team of 16 riders was joined by a small team from Victoria General Hospital, where Christine Wallace has been undergoing treatment. As you can see from the picture, we dedicated our ride to Christine.

It was a lovely sunny evening on June 18 as the Big Bike left The Forks at 7:30 pm. Decked out in tartan, the team of RSCDS dancers, family and friends travelled down Waterfront Drive to the Selkirk Settlers monument and back, with selections from the *Prairie Gold* CD playing from the loudspeaker.

In the June 2013 Big Bike event, 53 Manitoba teams raised over \$117,000 in Winnipeg, over \$5,000 in Morden/Winkler and almost \$30,000 in Brandon. The goal of the Heart and Stroke Foundation is to reduce Canadians' rate of death from heart disease and stroke by 25 per cent by 2020.

Thank you to everyone who supported our Big Bike team this year.

Heather Ferguson



Big Bike 2013

Dancing at the Millennium Gardens

On Thursday August 1, under the tutelage of Joyce Cormack, some of our dancers met at the Millennium Gardens Park in North Kildonan for an evening of dancing for both pleasure and promotion of our Scottish Country Style. It was very well received by the spectators who regularly attend events in the garden setting of this park. Joyce did a great job of choosing dances to showpiece both demonstration, casual, reels, jigs and strathspeys. Of course, we did the iconic favourites "Mairi's Wedding" and "Reel of the 51st Division". Audience members were invited to do social dances and enthusiastically joined in on the grass surface. We were entertained in between dances by our musicians Reg Curle and Scott MacRae and by chanteuse Sheila Careless. Joyce made it a lot of fun and kept us "moving". Thank you for seeking out this opportunity for the branch, gathering and printing the dances and putting the word out for volunteers. We chatted with the audience and later had a very nice gathering at Boston Pizza for pizza, beverages and great chats - pleasant summer evening of friendship, music, dining and dance. What could have been better?

Jan MacPhail



Millennium Gardens August 2013

Dancing in the Park

A few dancers met at St Vital Park August 25 and had a very pleasant picnic. It was great to be outside on a Sunday in the park with dancing friends - a lovely shady spot with a light breeze. Delicious food and visiting and we even got in a few dances. Joan said "that she felt like a kid who enjoyed the outdoors before air conditioning which seems to make being indoors in summer preferable to being outside". She even brought along bubble making paraphernalia and she and Jan had fun blowing bubbles. We all thought that it went quite well considering the temperature.

Thanks Reg for being the sentry and directing us to the picnic spot and thanks Joan for bringing all the picnic essentials. Thanks Sheila, Betty, Bob, Jan and Kay for coming out. One thing that we did prove is that we can have a picnic without booking and paying for space. It would be nice if we could do it again - how about September 8?? Anyone interested?? Let me know.

Joyce



St. Vital Park August 2013

Transatlantic Ceilidh

August 10, 2013

On the afternoon of Saturday, August 10, 2013, over 20 members of the Winnipeg Scottish community participated in a Transatlantic Ceilidh with the people of Helmsdale, in the Kildonan area of Scotland. The event was part of the Translocation Festival, which was held from August 3-17 to commemorate the Bicentenary of the Kildonan Clearances. The Festival was organized by the Timespan Museum and Arts Centre and the Helmsdale community.

Winnipeg was asked to participate in the Ceilidh as many of the people who were displaced by the Kildonan Clearances made their way to the Red River area with the assistance of Lord Selkirk. Many places in Winnipeg are named after these settlers – Helmsdale Avenue, East Kildonan, West Kildonan, Old Kildonan, North Kildonan and Kildonan Drive. Prominent names among the 1813 settlers included Sutherland, Bannerman and Matheson, all names of streets in Winnipeg's North End.

The Winnipeg portion of the Ceilidh was held in the Cultural Room of the Pavilion of Scotland (Glenwood Community Centre) while the Helmsdale event was held at the Timespan Museum. The two locations were able to join

together in this celebration through the technology of Skype. The Ceilidh began at 3:00 pm (9:00 pm in Helmsdale) with speeches from both locations, including greetings from the descendants of the Kildonan settlers from Winnipeg who travelled to Helmsdale for the event. Phyllis Fraser, Chair of the Bicentenary of the Red River Selkirk Settlement Committee, spoke on behalf of the Winnipeg site.

After the speeches, the Winnipeg participants danced *Riverside* for those in Helmsdale, followed by participants from both sites dancing *Strip the Willow* together, to music from the Helmsdale site. Both locations enjoyed refreshments after signing off. The Winnipeg participants enjoyed Empire Cookies, Shortbread and Fly Cemetery (raisin squares) with tea and coffee.

Thank you to the RSCDS members who came out to support this historic event on such short notice, Joyce Cormack for leading the dances on the Winnipeg side, Phyllis Fraser for her remarks, the Bicentenary Committee for covering the cost of the refreshments, and the Pavilion of Scotland for providing the venue. A special thank you must go to Keith Rempel, President of the Manitoba Highland Dancers Association, whose equipment and expertise made this event possible.

Heather Ferguson



People in Helmsdale, Scotland dancing Strip the Willow



Dancers in Winnipeg dancing Strip the Willow

If you would like to read about this topic, click on the link below to read an article in the Herald Scotland. It mentions the ceilidh where they danced Strip the Willow at the same as a group of dancers in Winnipeg.

<http://www.heraldscotland.com/life-style/outdoorsleisure/strath-of-kildonan-commemorating-a-time-of-upheaval-when-families-were-robbd-of-their-land-and.13767>

Robert Burns Memorial Service

July 21, 2013

A small group of Burns devotees and friends met at the Burns Statue for the annual memorial service for Robert Burns.

We were blessed again with perfect weather. The format for this event is quite standard with our club piper, Kirby MacRae, playing a lament and the laying of wreaths. This was followed by a beautiful eulogy given by Joyce Allen, recitations of poetry and our men's chorus singing A Man's A Man. Kirby gave us some more of his superb piping with an assortment of pipe tunes and Joyce Allen played a recording of The Lord's Prayer sung to the tune of Auld Lang Syne. Very moving.

Three of our dancers - Jan MacPhail, Sheila Careless and myself invited 3 very willing men up and we did Ha Ha the Woon' O It. Now if we could



Waving to our friends in Helmsdale, Scotland during the Transatlantic Ceilidh.

just get them signed up! We also got most of the guests to participate in a circle dance to the tune of My Love She's but a Lassie Yet. The afternoon concluded with the traditional singing of Auld Lang Syne and a group photo with the statue. A very enjoyable afternoon spent celebrating Burns 217 years after he died. Amazing!

Joyce Cormack

Fall class information

The teachers for classes starting in September 2013 are as follows:

Fort Garry Social Class (Mondays):

1st term: Maureen Burnham

2nd term: Peter McClure

Technique Class (Tuesdays):

1st term: Joyce Cormack

2nd term: Cheryl Durnin

Basics of Scottish Country Dancing (Thursday nights):

1st term: Cheryl Durnin

2nd term: Maureen Burnham

Upcoming Events

9th Annual Selkirk Settler's Commemorative Parade

Saturday, September 7th

We are invited to continue the celebration of the founding of the modern City of Winnipeg by Selkirk Settlers with the 9th Annual parade. This year will feature the official renaming of a City of Winnipeg park to **Fort Douglas Park**. The parade will begin at Bonnycastle Park go along Main Street and into The Forks via Fort Gibraltar Trail, along Waterfront Drive to the Scots Monument near George Street (approx. 2.3 km). The parade will conclude at approximately 2 pm with a short commemorative program and renaming ceremony for Fort Douglas Park.

Meet at 12:00. Parade begins at 1 pm. Please RSVP to Joyce Cormack at 204-224-2291 or rljcormack@gmail.com. We are hoping for a good turnout from the Branch. Come on out and march behind our banner.

15th Annual Manitoba Tourism Awards "Event of the Year"

Bicentenary of the Red River Settlement is recognized as a finalist in this category for

commemorating the historic milestone of the 1812 arrival of settlers in Winnipeg through a series of events. These events, driven by a dedicated corps of volunteers, included participation from the Scottish, Aboriginal, Metis and Francophone communities, highlighting this as a truly Manitoban celebration.

The other 2 finalists are the Festival du Voyageur and the Lockport Dam Family Festival. For more information visit the website at <http://www.manitobaturismawards.com>

The 15th Manitoba Tourism Awards Gala Luncheon takes place on

Monday, September 30th from 11:30-1:30 at the Victoria Inn Winnipeg.

Here and There

Note from Headquarters:

Headquarters has decided to postpone the vote regarding the re-structure until November 2014.

Kilt for sale

Hunting Chisholm

Waist: 48"

Bottom: 72", pleated, 17' open/flat

Width: 32"

Please contact Anne Lindsay at malindsay@shaw.ca if interested.

Out of Town Events

Port Townsend, WA

September 6-8, 2013

RSCDS Seattle Branch

Fort Worden Scottish Country Dance Weekend

Welcome Dance, Classes, and Ball

Teachers: Barbara Johnston, Elinor Vandegrift,

Andrew Smith, and Fred DeMarse

Music: Waverley Station

Contact: Kathi Ploeger (fwreg@rscds-seattle.org)

Ottawa, ON

September 20-22, 2013

RSCDS Ottawa

Workshop, Concert & Gala Dance

Teachers: Andrew Nolan & Chandie McCracken

Music: Davie Wiesler & David Knight

Contact: register@ottawadancescottish.org or 613-256-8223

Saskatoon, SK

October 4 to 6, 2013

RSCDS Saskatchewan Branch

33rd Annual Workshop, Banquet & Ball
Saskatoon, SK
Teachers: Elaine Brunken from Laurel, Maryland &
Gordon Robinson from Victoria, BC
Music: Ron Krug & Ken Nattrass
Contact: workshop@rscdssask.org

Medicine Hat, AB

October 25 to 27, 2013
RSCDS Medicine Hat Branch
38th Annual Workshop, Banquet & Ball
Medicine Hat, AB
Teachers: Ian Souter from Hamilton, ON,
Bernadette Thill from Edmonton, AB &
Tim Wilson from San Francisco, CA
Music: Ron Krug, Ken Nattrass & Dennis Orr from
Seven Persons, AB
Contact: rscdsmh@gmail.com

Pacific Grove, CA

November 1-3, 2013
RSCDS San Francisco Branch
Asilomar Weekend Workshop
Dance & Ceilidh, Classes, and Ball
Teachers: Barbara Johnston, David Newitt,
Jennifer Reiner, Mervyn Short, Ron Wallace.
Music: Red Thistle Music, Ian Muir Dance Band
Contact: Julee Montes (650-722-0473 or
julm-hcs@pacbell.net)

Twin Cities (Minneapolis/St. Paul) MN

November 15-17, 2013
RSCDS Twin Cities
Scottish Country Dance Workshop
Guest teacher: Robert McOwen of Boston, MA
Music: fiddle player Katie McNally, also of Boston,
MA.
www.rscds-twincities.org/workshop2013.html

Honolulu, Hawaii

Feb. 14-16, 2014
RSCDS Hawaii
"Palaka" Aloha Winter Workshop 2014
Guest instructor: Jack Raines
Music: Humuhumunukunukuapua'a & Strathspey
Society Band
Contact: Melissa Lindsay (808-256-3347 or
MLindsay@hawaii.rr.com)



700 years after Scotland's most famous battle, experience the biggest ever re-enactment of the Battle of Bannockburn at Bannockburn Live.

The National Trust for Scotland's three day spectacular takes place on **Saturday 28, Sunday 29 and Monday 30 June 2014** and, as well as a brutally realistic re-enactment of the battle, features an array of themed villages, where visitors can enjoy everything from Scottish food and drink to sports, crafts and literature, exciting outdoor activities, an action packed children's programme, a main contemporary music stage and more.

See, taste, smell, hear and discover medieval life in the historical encampments, then watch Robert the Bruce and Edward II lead their armies to battle at Bannockburn Live.

Further information for groups and clans can be found [here](#).

For more information and to buy tickets, visit www.bannockburnlive.com

Be sure to check the Inter-City Scot website for more information on dancing events in other cities (there is a link on the Winnipeg Branch website).

Important Dates

COM meetings: COM meetings are held on the first Wednesday of the month from October to May.

Next L&A: Deadline for the October issue will be October 5th.

Members are encouraged to submit articles, pictures or information of interest to Branch members.

Please send submissions for the *Light and Airy* to Sheila Careless at careless@mts.net

This and the past 11 issues of the *Light and Airy* are posted on the Branch website (rscdswinnipeg.ca).